255 Addison Road  
Riverside, Illinois 60546  
  
December 16, 2011  
  
Senator Mark Kirk  
Hart Senate Office Building  
524 Washington, DC 20510  
  
Dear Senator Mark Kirk:  
  
  
Pandas are one of my favorite animals and I am very concerned because of the fact that only 1,000 to 2,000 of them are left in the wild. I understand you may be busy, but this a very important matter. I am not just worried about giant pandas, but I am troubled about a lot of other animals like the leopards, which also are one of my favorite animals. At the Brookfield Zoo I adopted a leopard, Beggera, and I have the picture of him in my room. Therefore, I would like to change this issue.  
  
I have been thinking about this problem long before writing this letter. For my birthday instead of buying presents, I told everyone to bring money instead, and that I would donate the money to the pandas. That was about two or three years ago. I think it was last year when I had a birthday theme based on pandas. I had a panda cake, panda plates and napkins. I have five stuffed animal pandas. So, I went on a website that was all about endangered animals. I was horrified. The list of endangered animals went on and on. Some people might say: well, they’re just animals and it’s their problem.If I was a different person I could agree with that, but think about it. We are animals as well, and we are the ones causing this problem. Four words: this is our problem. Thatsaid, if everyone would think about what’s going on, they could come up with great ideas to save the endangered animals.  
  
My first idea is based on what I did for my birthday: send money for the pandas instead of gifts. That birthday actually got some of my friends interested in saving pandas. Also, I think that there should be a special day for Girl Scouts to collect money for the animals. Possibly even 15% of the customer's payment of cookies would go to the leopards, yaks and pandas. I was also thinking that there could be bulletin boards with the ads on it about saving pandas. I understand that it may cost a lot of money, but it would make a big change. In conclusion, thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
  
  
Samantha Doornebos

December 16, 2011  
  
Mayor Rahm Emanuel  
121 N. LaSalle  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
  
Dear Mayor Rahm Emanuel:  
  
For a long period of time, I have been concerned with the litter around Chicago. For only being one mayor, you are doing an excellent job. Chicago has spent millions of dollars just to clean up the streets. Those millions of dollars can go somewhere else. For instance, with those millions of dollars you can donate some to the Salvation Army or to a cancer center. Therefore, I think you should do something now before litter wins the battle.  
  
About 20 years ago in Singapore, if you were caught throwing a piece of gum on the sidewalk police would fine you 80 dollars. Eighty dollars for a piece of gum when you could of thrown it in the garbage is not worth it. Litter can make our neighborhoods look careless and dirty. Trash pick up teams pick up 85 million pounds of garbage every year. It’s not just Chicago, it’s all over the world. You’re the mayor and I don’t think you want your city looking like junk. It breaks my heart when I see so much litter on the sides of the highways. Beer cans, bottles, cups, wrappers from fast food restaurants and much more. When you’re on the highway, take the time to look out the window and see all the garbage.  
  
In conclusion, people are not respecting Mother Nature and that is becoming a problem. People are too busy on their iPhones and iPads to throw a Starbucks cup away. I think you should put up signs around Chicago that say, “No Littering!” If you want to fine people for littering that would be your choice. You can also try to put more trash cans around the city. I understand that it may cost a lot of money, but if people do stop littering, Chicago will be a better home for you and everybody else. In the same way, if there is not garbage on the sidewalks, then there may be a dilemma with city sanitation workers losing their jobs. However, it’s still a massive nightmare. Thank you for your time and attention to this problem.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
Karoli Esparza

December 16, 2011  
  
Mr. Thomas G. McBrady  
Nabisco Incorporated  
7 Campus Drive  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054  
  
Dear Thomas McBrady:  
  
I’m writing this letter to you concerning the products that your company sells. Even though you have done a substantial job at selling you merchandise, I recently have examined the ingredient lists of your company’s food products and have noticed that most of your company’s products, such as Oreos and other cookie and cracker snacks, contain palm oil. To explain, palm oil plantations cause wild fires because they increase of pollution in rain forests that kills the habitats of many fauna to suffer and die without shelter or protection. Therefore, I send this letter to ask you to stop using palm oil in your food products.  
  
I bet you don’t know how palm oil industries cause a great deal of pollution. Since they make so much pollution in sensitive rain forests, it heats up the atmosphere around it. Clearly, this affect is dreadful because it causes wild fires which burn down many trees. Trees are homes to many animals that have been wiped out because companies like yours have been demanding palm oil. One of the main affected animals are orangutans. These highly clever animals rely on the trees so much because that’s where they get their food, shelter and also hide from their predators. Also, according to Orangutan International Foundation, there are only 10,600 orangutans left in the world and they could be completely extinct by 2020 at this rate. I would be devastated if orangutans became defunct. Would you really want to be partly responsible for these greatly intelligent mammals to become destroyed?  
  
In conclusion, as vice president, you have the power to take out palm oil from your food products or to reduce the amount of palm oil usage in the merchandise. Now I understand that palm oil might taste better than other oils, but vegetable oil can easily replace it and the taste wouldn’t make a difference. Even if it’s only one company, it still can make all the difference. One company no longer using palm oil could save a whole rain forest. Finally, I ask you to please consider the issue and thank you for taking the time to read this letter.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
  
  
Chloe Wandel-Marrello

300 Maplewood Road  
Riverside, IL 60546  
  
December 16, 2011

Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
  
Dear Barack Obama:  
  
I am writing to inform you about the crisis of technology affecting the amount of child activity. I am so thrilled about what you are doing to reduce obesity. I am also pleased about those Play 60 commercials on television that tell kids to get out and get active. This is a crisis that is happening all over the United States! According to, <http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org> 40 percent of three month olds watch television and 19% of babies one year and younger have a TV in their bedroom! Even more astounding, preschoolers spend 32 hours a week with screen media!  
  
Unfortunately, this enormous amount of screen users causes problems later in life, like, lower math and school achievement, victimization by classmates and increased BMI (body mass index). This outrageous amount of screen time leads to obesity. Seventeen percent of kids and adolescents are obese and we don’t want this number to increase.The even more damaging part is obesity can cause athsma and other breathing problems. Worst of all, obesity causes CVD (cardiovascular disease). This deadly disease is still the number one killer in the United States. I understand that the people who play video games all the time think that video games are so entertaining and they say they only play for an hour, but most likely they play for a really extensive time because when you’re having an amazing time, time flies by. Another unfortunate side effect is, irregular sleep patterns and delayed language acquisition.  
  
Clearly, you can see how destructive childhood obesity is becoming and how technology is such a big benefit to it. The reason this is happening is that the more time kids spend with screens the more they want to use screens. Thus, decreasing the amount of activity. Thank you for your time and I hope you enjoyed this letter.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
  
  
Jackson Hajer

December 16, 2011

Michael C. Gorman  
Town Hall

Riverside, Illinois 60546  
  
Dear Michael C. Gorman:

I am here to inform you today because I am concerned about how many injuries there are on the sledding hill in downtown Riverside. I understand we are very fortunate to even have a sledding hill, but I think it could be safer. Thus, I think you, as the President of Riverside, can make a humungous impact by making the sledding hill more safe.  
  
I am concerned about making the sledding hill safer because according to msnbc, at least 20,820 kids to teens get injured on a sled in the United States a year. In addition, that according to Bill Hendrick from WebMD Health News, 26% of the injuries were fractures, 25% were cuts and bruises, and 51% of the injuries occurred during a collision. Also, I know it may be exciting going sledding on a crisp, frigid day, but it is not at all exciting when you get injured! Think hard about one time you were injured or sick and you had to stay at home or at a hospital. Did you have a fun time? One of my friends was in a sled with her sister at the sledding hill. They crashed into a tree and an ambulance came. She told me, “I was on a sled with my sister and one of my friends. We were flying down the hill, when all of a sudden we crashed into both the tree and the fences. I heard my dad call 911. I almost broke my knee, my friend had a bunch of bruises and scars, and my sister went to the hospital for her eye.” Doesn’t that sound scary?  
  
I know Riverside has tried hard to make the sledding hill safe by up putting hay and fences, but I want it to be taken one step further. For example, one suggestion is to cut down the tree with the hay around it. By chopping the tree down, you could even make the sledding hill a little wider. While cutting the tree down, you could replant a new one further out. I understand the Olmsted Society may not want to cut down the tree to preserve Riverside, but this is for children’s safety. Wouldn’t you rather want to cut down a tree than hurt kids? If you would like to know more about this topic read this website, “Sledding can send kids slip-sliding into injury, study say on msnbc. com. All in all, I know you are very occupied with managing Riverside, at which you do a very extraordinary job. I ask you to give this subject serious consideration. Thank you for your time!  
  
Sincerely,  
  
  
  
Radka Pribyl Pierdinock

215 Ridge Wood Road

Riverside, IL 60546

December 15, 2011

President Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington, D.C 20500

Dear President Obama:

Hi I am Vaughn. I am here strictly to inform you about a very pressing matter in our country and ways we could fix it. That matter is smoking, but specifically that the tobacco companies are allowed to make a product that kills people everyday! Do you really want citizens in our country die everyday because they buy a product in the United States? Also, if you put an end to it, you could have a much greater chance of getting reelected.

First, did you know that all around the world including America people die because of tobacco related products? Around 5.4 million people die each year because of tobacco. Four hundred-forty three thousand deaths of that 5.4 million deaths comes from the U.S. Even scarier is that 50,000 people in the U.S die because of second hand smoking! Another thing to mention is that most smokers die 15 years sooner than nonsmokers.

Ok I know what you are thinking, that this is just some person who is writing to you about the same thing that probably over one million people in the U.S have written to you about. Except I provide something many don’t. A way to fix it. I know many people that probably could not live without their precious cigarettes (by the way that’s so gross) and many people would want to start a riot if it the cigarette companies were shut down, but what if the companies still sold the cigarettes and chewing “tobacco” but there wasn’t tobacco or any other drug in them. (Also, WARNING if I were you I would try to keep this as quiet as possible). You could put a friendly substance in them and then when somebody smokes steam would come out. About the nicotine, I have done some research and it looks like nicotine itself is not going to kill you, but it is still a drug and there are side effects. So if you choose to do what I have recommended in this letter it would be your choice to put nicotine in it. Another thing that is **completely** unfair is that cigarettes are so expensive and they can put so much tax on it considering you don’t need it to live. They are making so much money off it too because cigarettes only cost about 10 cents to make.

Sincerely yours,

Vaughn Hilpp